

Hi, I'm \_\_\_\_\_\_ from the South Florida Water Management District. Today, I'd like to present a program on our current water shortage.



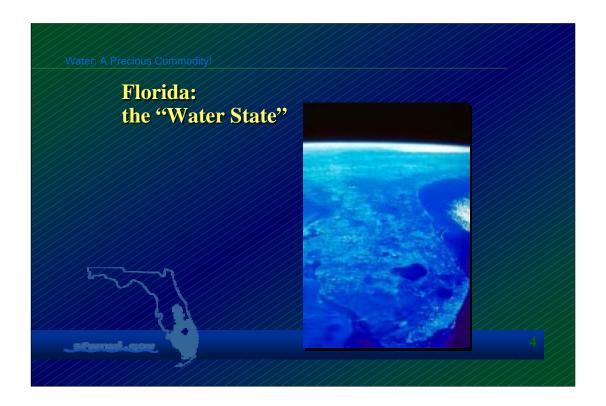
The South Florida Water Management District is one of five regional agencies established by the legislature and charged with broad responsibilities for:

- · Water Quality
- · Flood Protection
- · Natural Systems, and
- · Water Supply

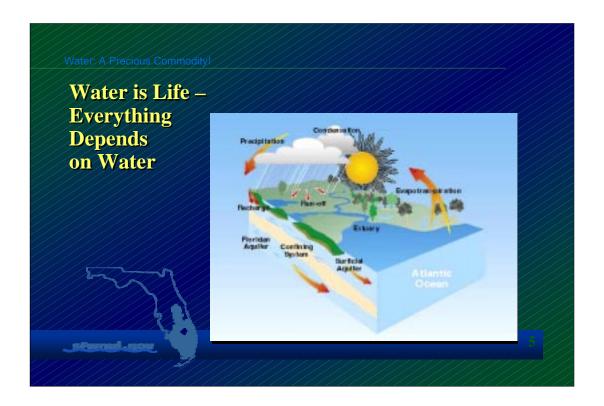


Managing water in South Florida is important. It requires balancing floods and droughts as well as balancing competing and needs and uses.

Among other things, the District is charged under state law to protect the water resources of the state from harm, to encourage conservation and to plan for existing and future users of water.



You might call Florida "The Water State" instead of "The Sunshine State." Florida is a peninsula surrounded on three sides by water. We have abundant rivers, streams, lakes, springs, marshes and other wetlands.



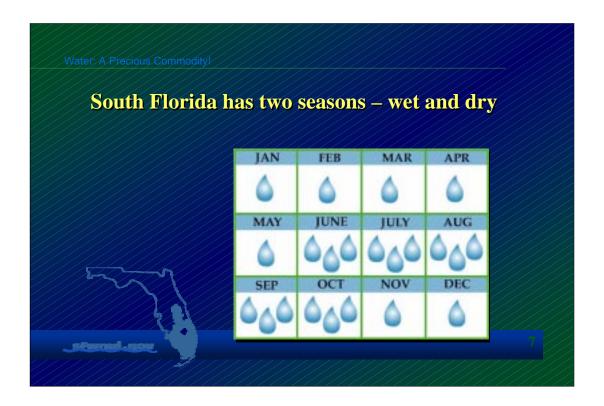
South Florida is currently experiencing a major drought. Water is Life-Everything Depends on Water and this is especially true in our "water" state.

- · Florida's geology and geography were formed by water.
- · Florida's history was influenced by water.
- · Florida's culture, land use, demography are shaped by water.
- · Florida's economy relies on water.
- · Florida's natural systems & plans for future sustainability depend upon water.



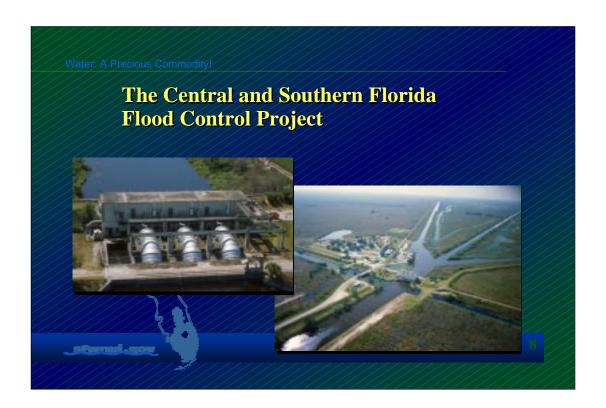
To understand the current water shortage in South Florida, it is necessary to have an understanding of our climate and geography.

We are completely dependent upon rainfall for water supply. Rain replenishes our lakes, rivers, streams, canals and wetlands. Rain soaks into the ground and replenishes our aquifers, the source of drinking water for most Floridians.



South Florida has two seasons-wet and dry. We get an average of about 53 inches of rainfall a year-a lot of rain. Most of the rainfall, about 70%, occurs in the summer from June through October.

Because of the subtropical sun and lush vegetation, 45 inches of that rainfall is lost to evaporation and transpiration.

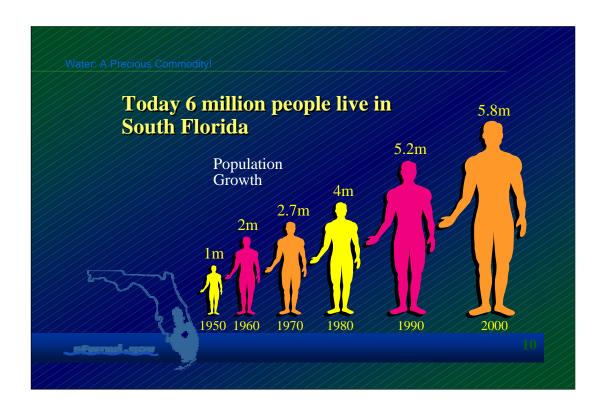


For most of Florida's history, flood not drought, has been the concern. After devastating hurricanes and floods in the 1940s, the federal government built a massive public works project, The Central and Southern Florida Flood Control Project. This Project would change the landscape forever



The Project drained the land and opened up the interior peninsular for agriculture and development. It consists of 1800 miles of canals and levees, gigantic pumping stations and water control structures to corral water where needed and to prevent saltwater intrusion along the coast. It straightened the Kissimmee River and diked Lake Okeechobee.

The Project works, and it works very efficiently. It sends water where needed during droughts and takes away water during floods.



However, it was built when water was seen as the unruly enemy. And, projected population figures estimated that by the year 2000 there would be 2 million people in South Florida.

Today, there are roughly 6 million people living here and approximately 30 million tourists visiting each year. (On average, 800 people a day are still moving to Florida.)

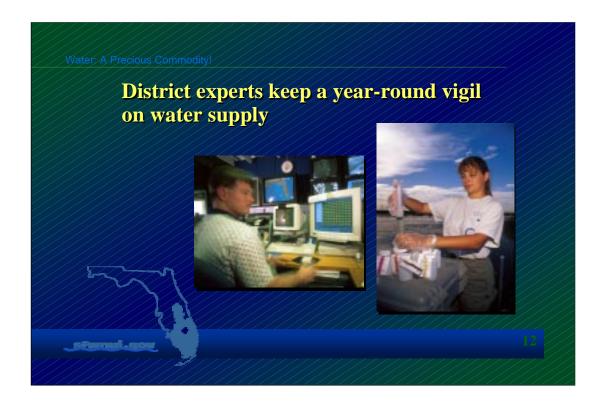


Though we have tamed the flow of water by channeling it, Mother Nature cannot be tamed. We continue to have too much rainfall and too little rainfall.

Droughts are equally as critical as floods for two reasons:

First: During drought, water supply becomes dangerously low with economic and safety consequences; and,

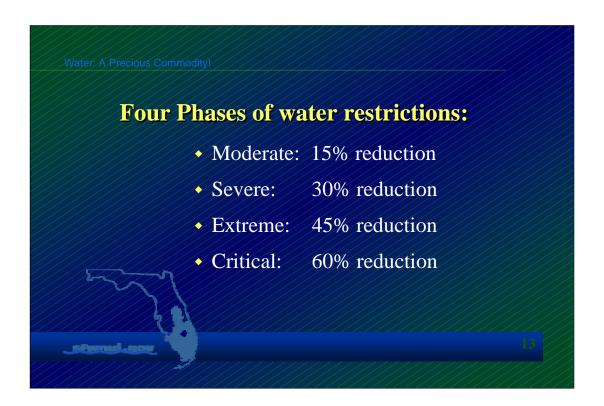
Second: There is the potential to cause irreparable damage when saltwater intrudes into the aquifer beneath the land.



District experts, therefore, keep a year-round vigil on the water supply.

## They constantly monitor:

- $\cdot$  Water levels in surface waters, especially Lake Okeechobee and the water conservation areas
- · Water levels in the aquifer
- · Rising chloride levels in the groundwater, a sign of saltwater intrusion
- · Amounts of actual rainfall and the predicted rainfall
- · Predicted water needs for urban and agricultural uses, and
- · The amount of water being used compared to the "normal" for the time of year.



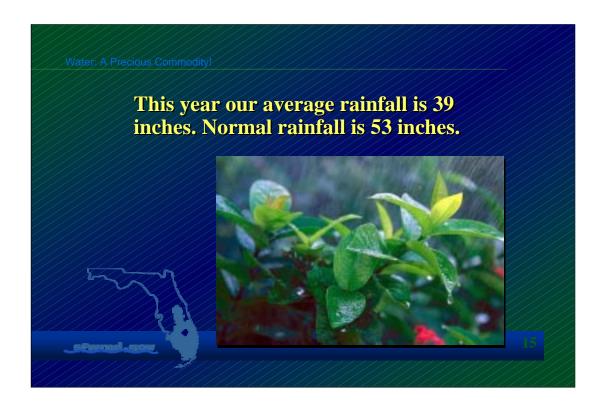
When conditions warrant, state law mandates that the District declare a water shortage and impose restrictions on water use based on the severity of the shortage. Each phase of water shortage aims for a specific reduction in the amount of water used.

- · Moderate water shortage-Phase 1-15% Reduction Goal
- · Severe water shortage -Phase 2-30% Reduction Goal
- · Extreme water shortage -Phase 3-45% Reduction Goal
- · Critical water shortage -Phase 4-60% Reduction Goal



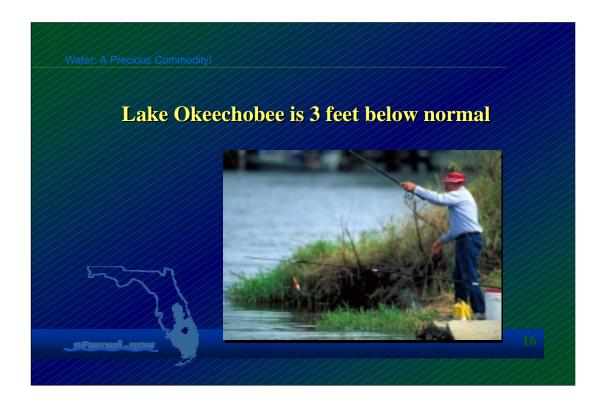
South Florida is currently experiencing a "severe water shortage" and is under

Phase 2 restrictions that aim to cut water use from all sources by 30%.



This drought is tied with 1961 as the second driest in recorded history-the worst being 1938. And, there were far fewer people and fewer demands in 1961 and 1938.

In the year 2000, South Florida had only  $39 \frac{1}{2}$  inches of rainfall on average. The normal rainfall is around 53 inches on average.



The greatest deficits in rainfall have been in the Kissimmee valley and over Lake Okeechobee. Deficits in these regions negatively affect all of South Florida.

Over the Lake and in the areas draining into the Lake, rainfall was one-third below normal. District-wide, rainfall was one-fourth below normal.

Lake Okeechobee, the back-up water supply for much of South Florida, is more than three feet below normal.



Groundwater supplies in the water conservation areas and in coastal wellfields are low.

Drinking water supplies could become contaminated by saltwater intrusion.

There is constant danger from wildfires.

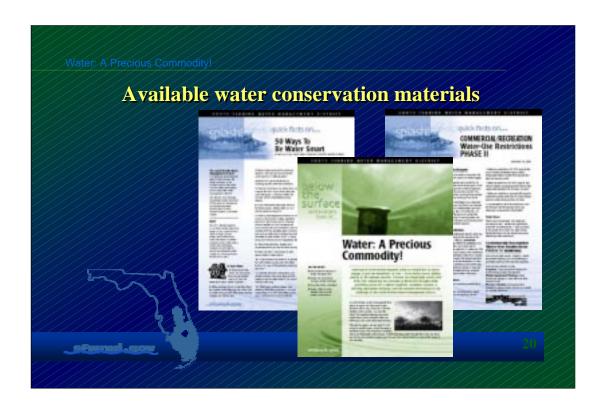


South Florida could be forced into further mandatory water restrictions before April, typically the driest month. The drought is expected to continue at least until June, the beginning of hurricane season.



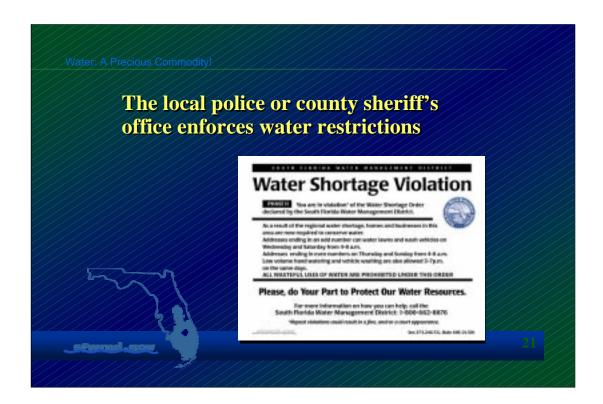
Because most water is used outside, mandatory restrictions target outside uses while inside reductions are encouraged.

Outside restrictions for Phase 2 - watering twice weekly -- should not jeopardize landscaping. Irrigation professionals concur that watering one day per week in the winter is adequate for appropriate South Florida plantings.



Materials are available here that outline the provisions of the various phases of water restrictions and offer suggestions for saving water.

- · Please "read and heed" the materials provided.
- $\cdot$  Please share your knowledge and encourage your family, friends, civic and homeowner groups to do the same.



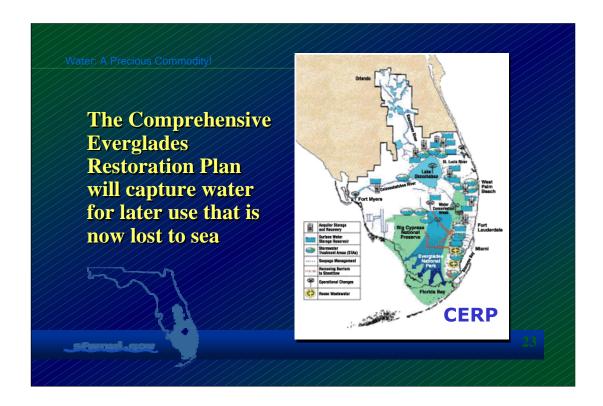
Enforcement of the water restrictions is not within the water management district's authority. Citizens should call their local police, sheriff or code enforcement department.



How can we all be "Be Water Smart" and conserve water?

Adopt a mind set of conservation-Be aware of the wet season and the dry season so that major water uses occur during the wet season.

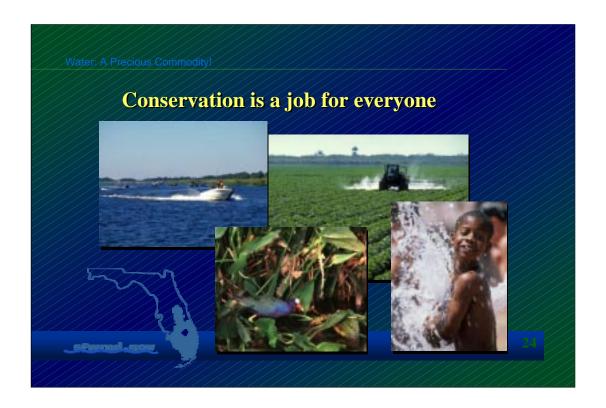
- · Plant in the wet season so that Mother Nature waters plants while they get established.
- $\cdot$  Learn about Xeriscape the landscaping method that uses drought tolerant plants, and teaches how to group plants together according to their water needs
- · Pick up 50 Ways to Be Water Smart for easy tips inside the home.



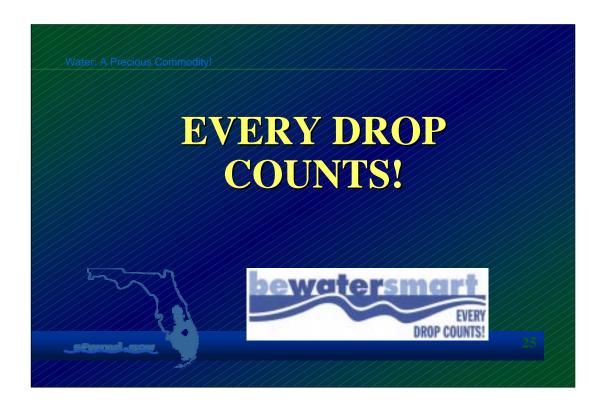
What is the South Florida Water Management District's Plan for Being Water Smart?

There is a major effort underway called the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan. It will provide the right amount of water and the right flow conditions to the Everglades WHILE providing water for urban and agricultural needs for a 50-year population projection.

Key to the Comprehensive Plan are projects designed to capture fresh water during the rainy season and make it available in the dry season.



Conservation is a job for everyone - residents, tourists, agriculture, business, industry and government. We all have a responsibility to use water wisely and to protect what we have.



Remember to Be Water Smart. Every Drop Counts.



